

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-18 are pending and claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 12 and 13 have been amended to correct minor informalities and to overcome the 35 USC 112 rejection. The amendments to the claims do not affect the scope of the claims and were not made to overcome the prior art. A Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections has been submitted herewith. The specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter is being presented.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show reference element 209 as described in the specification. Applicants note that the specification has been amended to remove this reference number and to note that the scanner motor is not shown in the drawings. The location of the scanner motor is not necessary to understand the invention and is also well known in the art. Further, the scanner motor is not specifically claimed in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

The drawings were also objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference signs not mentioned in the description. Elements 314c,m,y,k and 305 have been removed from the drawings. These elements are not necessary to understanding the invention as claimed. Element 101 is mentioned in the description at page 7, line 22. The specification has been amended to include references to LB, LC, LD and LE. Reference to element 484 has been deleted from Fig. 6. Element 330 is mentioned in the description at page 20, line 13. Accordingly, Applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 were objected to because of some informalities. Care has been taken to correct these informalities. Applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 5 has been amended to overcome this rejection. Accordingly, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Tada (U.S. Patent No. 5,138,702). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites “an interface connected to a network.” Tada does not disclose or suggest image processing apparatuses sharing functions over a network.

The Examiner has asserted that the claimed network is disclosed at col. 4, lines 41-46, of Tada. Applicants respectfully disagree. Col. 4, lines 41-46, of Tada state “[T]he image processing unit 11, image memory 12, CRT controller 13, CRT frame memory 14, optical disk interface 16 and external device control unit 21 are respectfully connected to an image bus 17 for image data communications and are capable of inputting/outputting image data with each other.”

The Examiner has not specifically stated which element she believes corresponds to a network. In fact, referring to Fig. 1 of Tada, it is evident that the system of Tada does not include a network. In Fig. 1 of Tada, only one host computer is shown. Nothing in this drawing, or its corresponding disclosure, even suggests networking the image processing devices. The device of Tada merely allows one host computer to combine the functions of elements 31-34. Tada fails to disclose or suggest a network. The system of Tada is similar to the prior art discussed in the application (see page 1, line 22 through page 2, line 10), which does not teach the claimed network connection.

Claims 9, 13 and 16 also recite a network, which is not disclosed in Tada. For this reason, the features of these claims are not taught or suggested by Tada. The remaining claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies. Accordingly, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

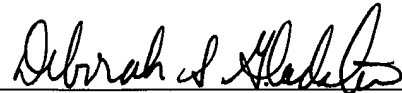
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment, captioned “**Version with markings to show changes made**”.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing 325772008700.

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Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, the image reader 200 will be described. A document on a platen glass plate 208 is illuminated by an exposure lamp 201. A light reflected from the document is then guided to a lens 203 by three mirrors 202 so that an image is formed on a CCD sensor 204. The exposure lamp 201 and the first mirror 202a scan the document at a velocity V in accordance with a magnification power in a direction indicated by an arrow by a scanner motor [209] (not shown), to scan the document on the platen glass 208. The second and third mirrors 202b and 202c are moved in the same direction at a velocity $V/2$ with the scanning of the exposure lamp 201 and the first mirror 202a. The light reflected from the document is incident on the CCD sensor 204 and converted to an electric signal. The electric signal is processed by an image processor circuit 205. Then, the resultant data is sent to a network interface 207 and the printer 300 or stored in a memory (not shown).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An input of the switch SA (472) is connected to the electrical processor 451 in the image reader. Outputs LA, LB, LC and LD of the switch SA (472) are connected to the electrical processor 461 in the image forming [sectiin] section, the network interface 481, the application operator 441 and the encoder/decoder 427.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Inputs LA, LE, LM of the switch SB (473) are connected to the electrical processor 451

in image the reader, the application operator 441 and the encoder/decoder 427. An output of the switch SB (473) is connected to the network interface 481.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 12 and 13 as follows:

1. (Amended) An image processor comprising:
a plurality of function blocks connectable to each other and dealing with image data;
an interface connected to a network; and
a bus changer which changes bus connections among said plurality of function blocks and said interface.
2. (Amended) The image processor according to claim 1, wherein
said plurality of function blocks comprise an image input block which receives image data, an image processing block which deals with image data, and an image output block which outputs the image data.
5. (Amended) The image processor according to claim 2, wherein said bus changer which is connected to the image input block changes the bus connection such that image data from said network is received through said interface and [sends image data] sent to said network through said image output block or said interface.
9. (Amended) An image processor comprising:
a plurality of function blocks connectable to each other and dealing with image data;
an interface connected to a network;

a bus changer which changes bus connections among said plurality of function blocks and said interface; and

a controller which discriminates data received from said network and controls data transmission to one of the function blocks to be operated.

12. (Amended) The image processor according to claim 9, wherein said plurality of function blocks comprise an image input block which receives image data, an image processing block which deals with image data, and an image output block which outputs the image data.

13. (Amended) An image processor comprising:
a plurality of function blocks connectable to each other and dealing with image data;

an interface connected to a network;

a bus changer which changes bus connections among said plurality of function blocks and said interface;

a memory having a function management table to manage executable functions;
and

a controller which requests an external apparatus connected through said interface and said network to operate a function when the function is not managed in the function management table in said memory.